

-2-

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph [0057], as follows:

[0057] When receiving mechanism 304 at node 1210 receives message 502, node 1210 generates an authenticated request for a shared key (step 604). The authenticated request includes:

$KDC_J \parallel ID_A \parallel ID_B \parallel N_A \parallel N_B \parallel M(K_{AJ}, KDC_J \parallel ID_A \parallel ID_B \parallel N_A \parallel N_B)$

where N_A is a nonce generated by node 110, K_{AJ} is node key 306 and $M(K_{AJ}, KDC_J \parallel ID_A \parallel ID_B \parallel N_A \parallel N_B)$ is a message authentication code generated by MAC generator 308 using K_{AJ} and $KDC_J \parallel ID_A \parallel ID_B \parallel N_A \parallel N_B$. Sending mechanism 302 in node 110 sends the authenticated request to key distribution center 100 in message 504 (step 606).